# The Middlebury Campus

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## *Administrators discuss commitments to anti-racism and equity during open meeting*

**By LILY JONES**
*Contributing Writer*

The use of a racial slur targeting a Middlebury student and an update on the college's five-year action plan for anti-racism, diversity, equity and inclusion were the focus of an open meeting co-hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA) and college administrators on Oct. 9. Student moderators represented groups accross campus, including the SGA, International Students' Organization, Umoja and the Muslim Students Association. Panelists included President Laurie Patton, Chief Diversity Officer Miguel Fernández, the Director of the Task Force on Anti-racism Christal Brown and dozens of other faculty and administrators.

President Patton opened the event with a statement regarding the recent incident of race-related harassment on campus, which has since been investigated. "Racial slurs have no place on our campus, and no one should have to suffer dehumanizing treatment while pursuing a Middlebury education," Patton said. She emphasized the work of the Senior Leadership Group (SLG) in response to this incident and listed several specific action steps.

The Board of Trustees plans to form a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee which will communicate frequently with BIPOC students and faculty. Patton's aim is to make DEI issues more central in the Trustees' decision making. The SLG has been talking to the SGA and Concerned Students of Midd — a group of students who sent a statement to President Patton and the SLG criticizing a May 31 community-wide email from Patton for drawing parallels between racial injustices and the pandemic. The email has since been removed from the college's announcements. According to Patton, the SLG plans to implement restorative practices and is hoping to conduct follow-up meetings with Concerned Students of Midd.

Patton also announced that the college will hire four new faculty

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## *Benjy Renton '21 garners national recognition for contact tracing the White House*

KATHERINE KOEHLER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Benjy Renton '21 has been covering Covid-19 since mid-January when the pandemic was just beginning to make international headlines, and has found himself nine months later, tracing the White House Covid-19 outbreak.

**By HANNAH BENSEN**
*News Editor*

Benjy Renton '21 has spent the better part of the past six months covering the Covid-19 pandemic with his weekly "Where We Stand with Covid-19" reports. But not even Renton could have anticipated his new beat when, in the early hours of Friday, Oct. 2, his friend and Middlebury Campus colleague James Finn '20.5 sent Renton a tweet: President Trump had tested positive for the virus.

"We've begun the monumental task of contact-tracing the President of the United States," Renton said in an interview with The Campus.

By the end of the day on Oct. 2, Renton had joined forces with Peter Walker, a data visualization specialist who spearheads the Covid-19 Tracking Project for The

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LOCAL

## Vermont becomes first state to offer Covid-19 economic aid to undocumented immigrants

**By JACK SUMMERSBY**
*Contributing Writer*

Vermont has become the first state to create a Covid-19 economic stimulus fund for residents previously unable to receive federal stimulus checks. Signed into law on Oct. 2 by Gov. Phil Scott, the program largely benefits undocumented immigrants and is projected to aid up to 5,000 Vermont residents.

The state approved $5 million to be distributed to those previously unable to receive federal aid, allocated in checks of $1,200 for adults and $500 for children.

Migrant Justice, a Burlington-based non-profit, proposed such a fund after undocumented families were excluded from early federal payments. "Today is a new day. Things are finally starting to change. Vermont is beginning to recognize us," Migrant Justice tweeted in response to the news.

Up to 4,000 adults may benefit from the fund, as well as up to 1,000 children as estimated by the Joint Fiscal Office of the Vermont General Assembly. Around 3,000 are thought to be undocumented immigrants, while others were unable to recieve federal benefits after filing taxes with an undocumented spouse.

The program is to be administered by the Agency of Administration, the Executive Director of Racial Equity and the Agency of Human Services.

Will Lambek, who works with Migrant Justice in Burlington, explained that the plan is largely the result of immigrant farmworkers who lobbied elected officials in Vermont. The workers, whom the state classified as "essential workers" during the early stages of the pandemic, were excluded from relief funds that benefited similar wage earners.

"Immigrant farm workers led a six-month campaign to push this proposal forward, ultimately convincing the Governor to include the idea in his budget proposal and the legislature to fully fund it," Lambek said.

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COURTESY OF MIGRANT JUSTICE

Burlington-based non-profit Migrant Justice proposed and advocated for the fund benefiting undocumented workers excluded from federal stimulus checks.

ARTS & CULTURE

## *Cocoon continues the tradition of storytelling amid the pandemic*

**By ACADIA KLEPEIS**
*Contributing Writer*

Masks were on, but eyes and ears were open, and the audience reacted enthusiastically to the highs and lows of each story at the eighth annual Cocoon storytelling evening, which took place on Oct. 10 at Manahey Arts Center's Robison Hall.

The Middlebury Moth-Up, a small student organization inspired by The Moth phenomenon, charges itself with the mission of promoting the craft of storytelling.

This year's Cocoon was loosely centered around the theme "Downpour." Co-President of the Middlebury Moth-Up Alexandra Burns '21.5 said that the team sought a theme that reflected the chaos of recent months. Each of the four storytellers, including two students and two staff members, took their own approach.

Middlebury horticulturalist Tim Parsons told a heartwarming story about gaining a fourth child when his three daughters convinced him to get a puppy. Regina Fontanelli '22 spoke about the evolution of her complex relationship with her mother throughout her adolescence and her college years. Emily Ballou '21 had the audience in stitches as she reminisced about spending the day with a cranky old woman at a Vermont fair. And finally, Knoll Food & Garden Educator Megan Brakeley '06 told an emotional sto-

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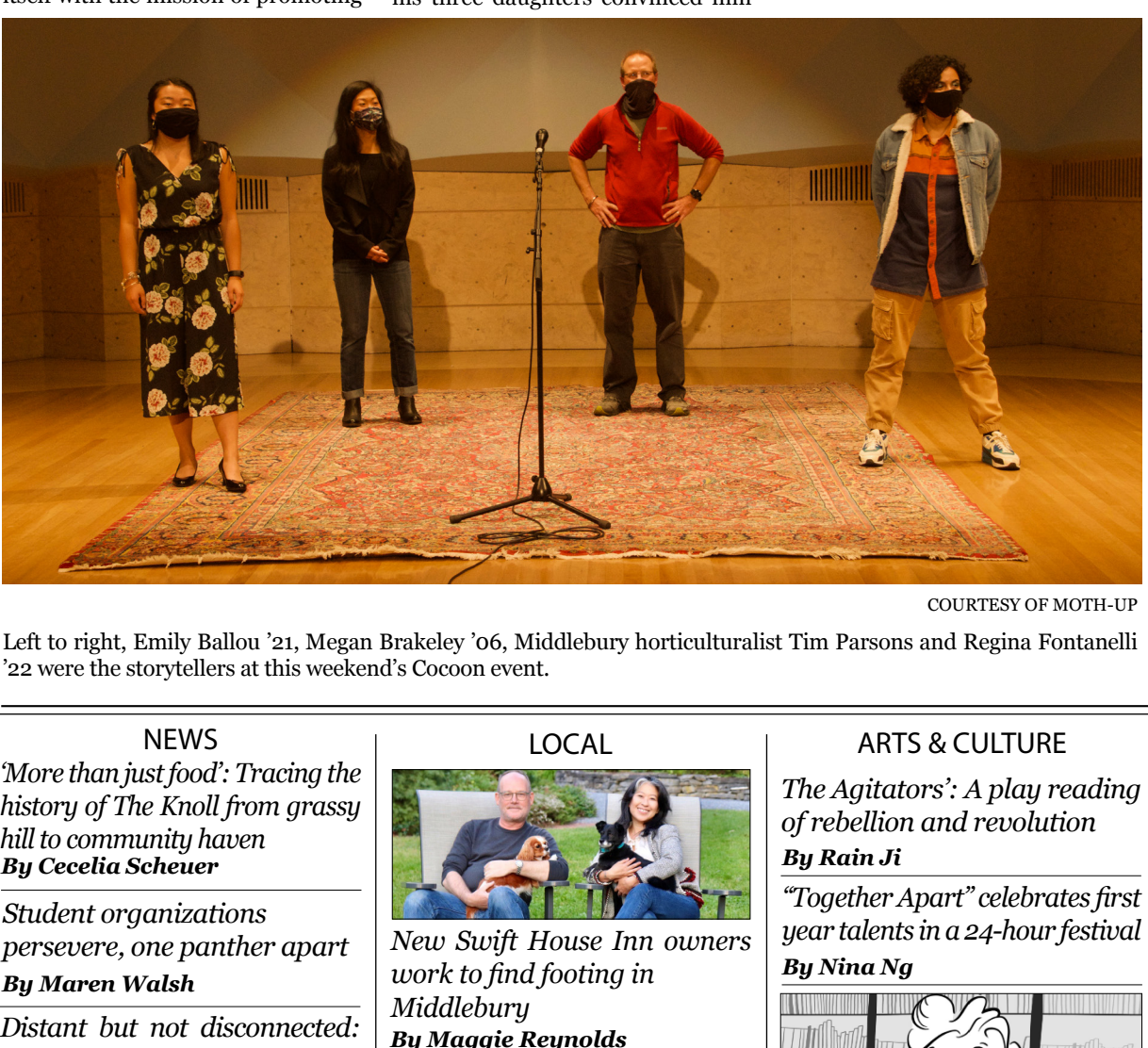

COURTESY OF MOTH-UP

Left to right, Emily Ballou '21, Megan Brakeley '06, Middlebury horticulturalist Tim Parsons and Regina Fontanelli '22 were the storytellers at this weekend's Cocoon event.

SPORTS

## Panthers give back to MOVEMIDD forward

**By ERIN KELLY**
*Senior Sports Editor*

Middlebury Panthers rallied behind a different sort of competition this semester: trying to outraise each other in financial aid fundraising for the college's two-day MOVEMIDD Challenge.

The MOVEMIDD Challenge called on the Middlebury community to come together and raise money for the college's financial aid budget from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1. College trustees set the overarching goal for the campaign, promising that if 1,800 donors joined the effort (a number set in honor of Middlebury's founding year), they would donate an extra $220,000 to celebrate the college's 220th birthday. The fundraiser ultimately raised $985,405 from 2,976 donors, exceeding the college's expectations for both donor and monetary support.

"With nearly 3,000 donors participating, we are thrilled with the results," Alanna Shanley '99, the executive director of annual giving and donor relations, said.

The Middlebury Athletics Office used the fundraiser to create friendly competition among teams, challenging current and previous student-athletes to contribute to the campaign. In a promotional video produced by the Athletics Office to support the MOVEMIDD Challenge, Director of Athletics Erin Quinn '86 called upon donors to support the nearly 30% of Middlebury students who compete in a varsity sport.

"Top-level athletes choose Middlebury because they want to be challenged in the classroom and they want to excel at the sport they love. That's why the MOVEMIDD Challenge is so important," Quinn stated in the video. "Gifts to financial aid allow the best student-athletes to enroll at Middlebury, regardless of their financial circumstances. With a gift to the MOVEMIDD Challenge, you'll help to ensure that we never have to turn away the athletes that make our Panther program strong and competitive."

Kitty Bartlett, the director of annual giving, said the goal for the so-called Panthers Give Back athletics sub-campaign was set at 1,200 donors because that was roughly the number of gifts contributed by athletes during last year's Proud to be a Panther Challenge. Although only 1,140 Panthers donated this year, the athletes still raised a total of $104,936 for financial aid. Men's and women's lacrosse topped the re-

*Continued online at middleburycampus.com*


NEWS

*'More than just food': Tracing the history of The Knoll from grassy hill to community haven*
**By Cecelia Scheuer**

*Student organizations persevere, one panther apart*
**By Maren Walsh**

*Distant but not disconnected: Zooming in on remote learners*
**By Genny Gottdiener**

*After spring exodus, students and staff scramble to account for belongings left behind*
**By Anthony Sjodin & Katie Futterman**

LOCAL



*New Swift House Inn owners work to find footing in Middlebury*
**By Maggie Reynolds**

*'It's hard to tell them they can't hug their friends': Addison Central Teens navigates acting as a support system amidst a pandemic*
**By Julia Pepper**

ARTS & CULTURE

*The Agitators': A play reading of rebellion and revolution*
**By Rain Ji**

*"Together Apart" celebrates first year talents in a 24-hour festival*
**By Nina Ng**

*Direct Your Attention: Music's biggest stage is actually quite small*
**By Owen Mason-Hill**

OPINION

*Notes from the desk: The façade of higher education is crumbling*
**By Lily Laesch**

*Don't be busy just to be busy*
**By Editorial Board**

SPORTS

*Siefer's Scoop Episode 6: Amandra Frank '23, Women's Tennis*
**By Blaise Seifer**